INDIA

A Record and Review of Indian Affairs

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

EDITED BY GORDON HEWART.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.] [OFFICES: 84 AND 85, PALACE CHAMBERS, LONDON, S.W.

VOL. VIII. **Parliamentary Report No. 4.** MAY, 1897.

This Supplement consists of a FULL Report, specially drawn up for "India," of the Debates on Indian subjects in both Houses of Parliament, and questions put on such subjects and the answers given to them, arranged chronologically, from March 26th to April 12th.

Imperial Parliament.

March 26th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ORIEL COLLEGE AND INDIAN CIVILIANS.

Sir LEWIS McIVER moved: "That an humble address be presented to her Majesty praying her Majesty to withhold her consent from the statute made by the governing body of Oriel College, Oxford, altering Statute IV. of the statutes of the college by the insertion after the 18th clause of a new clause numbered 18a."

Mr. JAMES BRYCE said he had been requested by the Provost of Oriel College to say, on behalf of the college, that they assented to the motion for the address being carried without a division, in the hope and expectation that the college would be able to frame and carry a provision respecting the selected candidates of the Indian Civil Service as would be approved by the India Office, as the guardians of the interests of that Service, and which they would regard as satisfactory.

Sir JOHN MOWBRAY desired, as the representative of the University of Oxford, to express the great satisfaction with which he had listened to the words of his right hon. friend opposite.

The motion was agreed to.

March 29th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HEALTH OF BRITISH TROOPS.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON asked the Secretary of State for India if he would ascertain the views of the Government of India with reference to the protection of the health of the British troops in India before stating to the House the action which her Majesty's Government proposed to take.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have for some time past been in communication with the Viceroy, and I propose to lay on the Table of the House a despatch addressed to the Government of India in which the views of her Majesty's Government are stated at length.

General LAURIE: Can the noble lord say when it is probable that the answer from the Government of India will be obtained?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I think it better for my hon. and gallant friend to read the despatch.

Major RASCH: In order to dispel misconception on this question, will the noble lord use his influence with the Government to give the House facilities for its discussion?

Mr. BALFOUR: I hope and believe the despatch is of such a character as not to call for any debate in this House. Perhaps the despatch had therefore be better read first by hon. gentlemen.

"REGULAR AND ELDERS' WIDOWS' FUND."

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON obtained leave to introduce a Bill to make provision for the transfer of the Assets, Liabilities, and Management of the Regular Widows' Fund, and of the Elders' Widows' Fund, to the Secretary of State in Council of India, and for other purposes in relation thereto. The Bill was read a first time.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS.

On the motion of Mr. M. M. BHOWNAGGREE, a Return was granted for Copies of Correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Supreme and Local Governments in India during the last five years regarding the Appointment of qualified Natives of India to posts in the Educational, Scientific, Medical, and other kindred Departments, which posts have been heretofore filled by Europeans.

HEALTH OF BRITISH TROOPS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

East India (Contagious Diseases) (No. 3, 1897).—Copy presented,—of Representations received by the Secretary of State for India from the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians relative to the prevalence of venereal disease among the British Troops in India [by command]; to lie upon the Table.

East India (Contagious Diseases) (No 4, 1897).—Copy presented,—of Despatch to the Government of India regarding the measures to be adopted for checking the spread of venereal disease among the British Troops in India [by command]; to lie upon the Table.

March 30th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.

Captain PIRIE asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been drawn to the remarkable variations in the ratios of admissions into hospital from venereal diseases occurring between the various garrison towns in India, as revealed in the recent memorandum of the Army Sanitary Commission and the Report of the Departmental Committee:

And, whether, in view of the important bearing of these variations upon any proposals that might be made for checking these diseases, he would order an enquiry to be made into their cause or causes, either in one or two selected cases or over the whole of the garrisons in India.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The hon. gentleman will see from the despatch which will be in the hands of members on Thursday morning that I have already directed the Government of India to institute an enquiry of the nature suggested.

April 1st.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITION.

8. Gopal Ballal Damle.—Petition of Gopal Ballal Damle for redress of grievances; to lie upon the table.

EAST INDIA LOANS.

East India (Loans raised in England).—Copy presented of Return of all loans raised in England chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended 31st March, 1897, etc. [by Act]; to lie upon the table.

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON obtained leave to introduce a Bill to remove doubts as to the power of the Secretary of State in Council of India to grant superannuation and compensation allowances in certain cases to officers on his establishment. The Bill was read a first time.

INDIAN TROOPS AND THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE."

Mr. M. M. BHOWNAGGREE asked the Secretary of State for India whether arrangements were completed for the presence of Indian troops on the occasion of her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee; and, if so, would he state how many officers and how many men were expected:

Whether he would ask the Government of India to arrange that of the officers as many as possible should be Native officers:

And, whether it was proposed to include in the contingent any representatives of the volunteer regiments in India, as well as of the Parsees who were enrolled in some of those regiments.

Lord G. HAMILTON: Twenty-one Native officers of Indian cavalry and twenty representatives of the Imperial Service troops are expected from India in order to take part in the celebration of the sixtieth year of her Majesty's reign. I have received no proposals from India for the deputation of any volunteers from that country.

INOCULATION AGAINST PLAGUE.

Sir CHARLES CAMERON asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the systems of anti-plague inoculation which were being tried in India by Dr. Haffkine and Dr. Yersin, and the statement contained in a recent official despatch from Bombay that 3,296 persons had already been inoculated by Dr. Haffkine:

And, whether, with a view of securing a prompt test of the protective and curative value of the procedures referred to, he would take steps to secure an independent official registration of all anti-plague inoculations, so as to enable the practical efficacy of the systems to be tested by subsequent comparison between the disease and death rates among inoculated and non-inoculated persons.

Lord G. HAMILTON: I have been in frequent telegraphic correspondence with the Bombay Government, regarding inoculations against plague.

I have requested the Bombay Government to report periodically the number and the results of inoculations under Dr. Haffkine's and Dr. Yersin's systems separately. As yet I have received no report regarding Dr. Yersin's work beyond the telegram on page 15 of the Plague Papers distributed to hon. members on Tuesday last. The results of inoculation are ascertained and reported as far as possible; as will be seen from the telegrams on pages 15 and 109 of the Blue Book, and from the Bombay Government plague telegram of the 29th March, published in yesterday's newspapers.

April 2nd.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.

On the motion of Major RASCH, a Return was granted showing the amount of all classes of venereal disease (including simple Venereal Returns) for all stations where the Act was in force from 1864 to 1883:

And a similar Return for the same stations from 1886 to 1895.

INDIAN BEER.

Mr. RENSHAW asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government contemplate remitting the present excise duty on beer brewed in India for the use of the troops; and, if so, whether it was intended to make a corresponding remission on customs duty on beer imported into India from this country for the use of the troops.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: The contracts for the supply of Indian beer to the troops in India terminate next year. I have not at present received any report tending to show that fresh arrangements are contemplated, but the attention of the Government of India will be drawn to my hon. friend's question.

April 5th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RETIREMENT AND PROMOTION.

Mr. HAZELL asked the Secretary of State for India whether the retirement of one of the senior clerks in the Audit Department of the India Office had been sanctioned:

And, whether, as another appointment to the senior class would involve an increase of charge upon Indian revenues, a promotion to a senior clerkship would, in accordance with the course pursued in two cases in 1892-3 in regard to the Accountant-General's Department, be deferred until such time as the official now retired on reduction of establishment would have been superannuated under the age limit, or whether the redundant clerkship could be now abolished.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: The retirement of a senior clerk in the India Audit Office has been recently sanctioned and a promotion to the senior class has been made.

This does not involve an increase of charge upon Indian revenues, for, including the pension of the senior clerk who has retired, it results in an immediate saving of £83 a year, and an average annual saving during the next fifteen years of £41.

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this Bill,

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS said there were fifteen or sixteen Superannuation Bills at present before the House.

Dr. TANNER asked for some explanation of the provisions of the Bill.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON said that a Memorandum in regard to the Bill had already been circulated. The Bill would impose no extra charge on the revenues of India, but tended to the contrary result. It applied to certain officials who belonged to the old East India Company, and who were under a special Superannuation Act passed in the reign of George III. There had been great difficulty in working the two superannuation funds, and it was thought right to try and amend the terms of the East India Company's Act. The result would be that the few gentlemen who were concerned would be able to retire at a somewhat earlier period at a less pension.

The Bill was then read a second time.

April 6th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR FAMINE RELIEF.

Mr. M. M. BHOWNAGGREE asked the Secretary of State for India what was the total amount of subscriptions received and remitted to India up to the end of March for the relief of the people suffering from famine by the United Kingdom, the British colonies, and the Russian dominions, for the money and grain contributions from which the thanks of her Majesty's Government were recently conveyed to the Government of the Czar.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: In reply to a telegram asking for information as to the sums already transmitted, the Government of India telegraphed on the 3rd instant the following statement:—Total subscriptions Indian Famine Fund as follows: Mansion House, £361,850, remainder of United Kingdom £185,400, British colonies £37,543, of which Canada £25,000; India £79,731, other parts of the world £4,732;

grand total £667,256. They add that no contribution in money has as yet been received from Russia. What may have been received in kind I am at present unable to say; but her Majesty's Government, having learned that gifts of grain were on their way from Russia, and that the Russian Government had given special facilities for their transport, lost no time in causing their thanks to be conveyed to that Government for their sympathetic and liberal action. It will be observed that the sums of money received by the Government of India up to the 3rd instant were considerably less than the amount which is known to have been subscribed or promised, which cannot in all be less than about £787,500.

HEALTH OF BRITISH TROOPS.

Colonel WYNDHAM MURRAY asked the Under Secretary of State for War, whether he would consider the advisability of carrying out the recommendation of the Committee of the Royal College of Physicians contained in their Report forwarded to the Secretary of State for India on the 29th March, that Medical Officers of the Army should give elementary reading-room lectures on the preservation of health to young soldiers:

And, whether these lectures could especially be given before or during their voyage to India.

Mr. BRODRICK: The recommendation that Medical Officers of the Army should give lectures to young soldiers on the preservation of their health is one to which great importance is attached, and the queston of the time and manner in which such advice can be given is under consideration.

April 7th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITION.

Khan, Sulaimon,—Petition of Sulaimon Khan for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

April 8th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HEALTH OF BRITISH TROOPS.

Captain PIRIE asked the Secretary of State for India what steps, if any, had been taken to carry out the urgent recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government in India, in his Report for 1894, which was also quoted with approval in the Report on Sanitary Measures in India in 1894-5, that much might be done to diminish the extent and and severity of contagious diseases among the British troops in India by providing increased facilities for bathing with comfort and convenience in private and public baths, and by inculcating habits of personal cleanliness among the troops.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have received a special report on the action taken on the representations made by the Sanitary Commissioner, but I understand that, in the opinion of the military authorities, ample provision is made for supplying British soldiers in India with the means of personal cleanliness. The importance of the matter is so well understood that it seems unnecessary to call for any special report.

April 12th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITION.

East India (Contagious Diseases).—Petition from Croydon, for further protection of British troops; to lie upon the Table.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.
DISSATISFACTION AT RELIEF SYSTEM.

Mr. BRYCE asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that dissatisfaction existed with the administration of the famine relief and the managment of famine relief works in the district of Cuddapah in the Presidency of Madras:

And, whether he would cause to be published, or lay upon the Table of the House, the Reports recently addressed to the Government of Madras on the state of the district by the Famine Commissioner and the Sanitary Commissioner.

Lord G. HAMILTON: I am not aware that dissatisfaction exists with regard to the administration of relief in the Caddapah district. The latest monthly relief report from Madras shows that at the end of January an area containing 284,000 inhabitants and amounting to about one-fifth of the district, was considered to be affected. On the 6th March 2,735 persons in this area were employed on relief works and 7,488 were receiving gratuitous relief. The unusually large proportion of people receiving gratuitous relief, which is attributed to the large "numbers of weavers relieved at their trade," warrants a belief that the administration of relief in Cuddapah is not illiberal.

All reports relating to the famine in Madras have been and will be included in the Famine papers presented periodically to Parliament while the Famine continues. I should add that the Governor is giving very close supervision to the administration of Famine relief within his Presidency.

THE FAMINE RELIEF FUND.
ALLEDGED UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION.

Sir SEYMOUR KING asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the demand made by the Bengal Branch of the Famine Relief Fund on the Central Relief Fund for about one-third of the entire fund:

Whether he had information that out of 51½ lakhs already distributed 11 lakhs had been assigned to Bengal, while the North-West Provinces and Oudh had received 17 lakhs:

Whether, on the basis of proportionate distress, as revealed by the number of persons on relief works, the North-West Provinces and Oudh would be entitled to 51·45 per cent. of the total receipts, and Bengal to only 12·75:

And, whether he was in a position to exercise any influence over the administrators of the Central Fund to secure that it should be fairly and proportionately distributed.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I am not aware of the proportions in which the Famine Relief Fund has been allotted by the Central Committee between the various affected districts; but I know that the distribution is made after a careful consideration of their competing claims. I have also reason to believe that the Central Committee is in constant communication with the Government of India, and gladly accepts it advice and assistance. But I have no influence in the matter, nor does it appear to me to be possible or desirable for any person in this country to attempt to control the local administration of the Fund.

DELAY OF "GRAIN COMPENSATION."

Mr. BIGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could explain why it was that the allowance sanctioned from 1st November, 1896, as grain compensation to all Native employees (Government servants) in the famine-stricken districts, drawing 10 rupees per month and under, was not given to the recipients till the middle of March, 1897:

And, whether any Government department was especially responsible for this delay in distribution.

Lord G. HAMILTON: Grain compensation is sanctioned by the local Authorities, and the dates of such sanctions are not necessarily reported to the central Government, but I have sufficient information to enable me to say that in many cases the compensation was granted before the 1st November, 1896. As to the delay alleged to have taken place, by which the grant was postponed beyond the middle of March, 1897, I have no knowledge at present; but if the name of the district in question is supplied to me I will make enquiry.

JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE DUTIES.

Mr. PICKERSGILL asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that in some provinces of India the judicial branch of the Indian Civil Service was being encroached upon and its proper functions circumscribed by the appointment of revenue officers to perform judicial work; and that in some instances the trial of sessions cases had been transferred to district magistrates who presumably were without adequate judicial training:

And was this partial supersession of the provincial judiciary of India due to the exercise of the power given to the executive authorities under the amended Criminal Procedure Code to invest district magistrates and other revenue officers with judicial functions; and, if so, would inquiry be made as to the desirability of these provisions of the Code being revised or

restricted, so that the confidence of the people in the administration of justice might be maintained.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am not aware that the judicial branch of the service is being encroached upon. It is true that local Governments in the non-regulation Provinces have the power of investing district magistrates with authority to try offences not punishable with death, but this power was not conferred by the amended Code; it has existed for 25 years, and I am not aware that it has been exercised more freely of late than at any former time, nor have I any reason to think that the existing law requires alteration.

OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION CHARGE.

With reference to the "East India Company's Officers' Superannuation [Charge]," the following resolution was considered in Committee, agreed to, and reported to the House:

That it is expedient to authorise the Charge on the Revenues of India of any addition to the Superannuation or Retiring Allowances, which may become payable under any Act of the present Session to remove doubts as to the power of the Secretary of State in Council of India to grant Superannuation and Compensation Allowances in certain cases to Officers on his Establishment.